

SENATE RESOLUTION 24

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Jack Britt on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jack Britt is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for three years as Executive Vice President of the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, born January 25, 1945, in Glasgow, Kentucky, Dr. Britt was raised on a dairy farm near Bowling Green; his appreciation of agriculture led him to earn a Bachelor's degree in agriculture and biology from Western Kentucky University, where he was an active participant in Alpha Gamma Rho, the national agriculture fraternity; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to the pursuit of personal and professional growth, he expanded his academic background in reproductive physiology with the completion of Master's and Doctoral degrees at North Carolina State University; and

WHEREAS, during his long career in education, Dr. Britt served as a faculty member and the head of the dairy science department at Michigan State University, the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs for the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University, and the Assistant Director of the North Carolina Agricultural Research Service; and

WHEREAS, joining the University of Tennessee in July of 1988 as the Vice President of the university's Institute of Agriculture, Dr. Jack Britt astutely presided over many programs and institutions, including several that serve all Tennesseans through various extension programs in all ninety-five counties, the agricultural and forest research stations in eleven locations throughout the State, the Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Knoxville, four 4-H centers, and a host

of comprehensive undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs offered on the university's Knoxville campus; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Vice President of Agriculture, Dr. Britt ushered in a number of beneficial changes, including the increase of faculty salaries; the securing of federal, state, and private funds for the construction and dedication of a plant biotech research and teaching building; and the establishment of the Tennessee Beef Cattle Improvement Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Britt was selected to serve as the University of Tennessee's Executive Vice President in September of 2004, an honor most befitting the unwavering dedication to the highest ideals of education he has exhibited throughout his entire career; and

WHEREAS, as Executive Vice President, he stood as the lead author of the most ambitious strategic plan for the university, guided the reorganization of the President's staff, and built a solid reputation for providing timely and honest counsel on all university-related matters and for possessing an untiring commitment to public service; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Britt has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we extend to Dr. Jack Britt our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend Dr. Britt for his dedication to the people of Tennessee, applaud his unassailable leadership, and offer our deepest gratitude for his outstanding service to the entire agricultural community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.